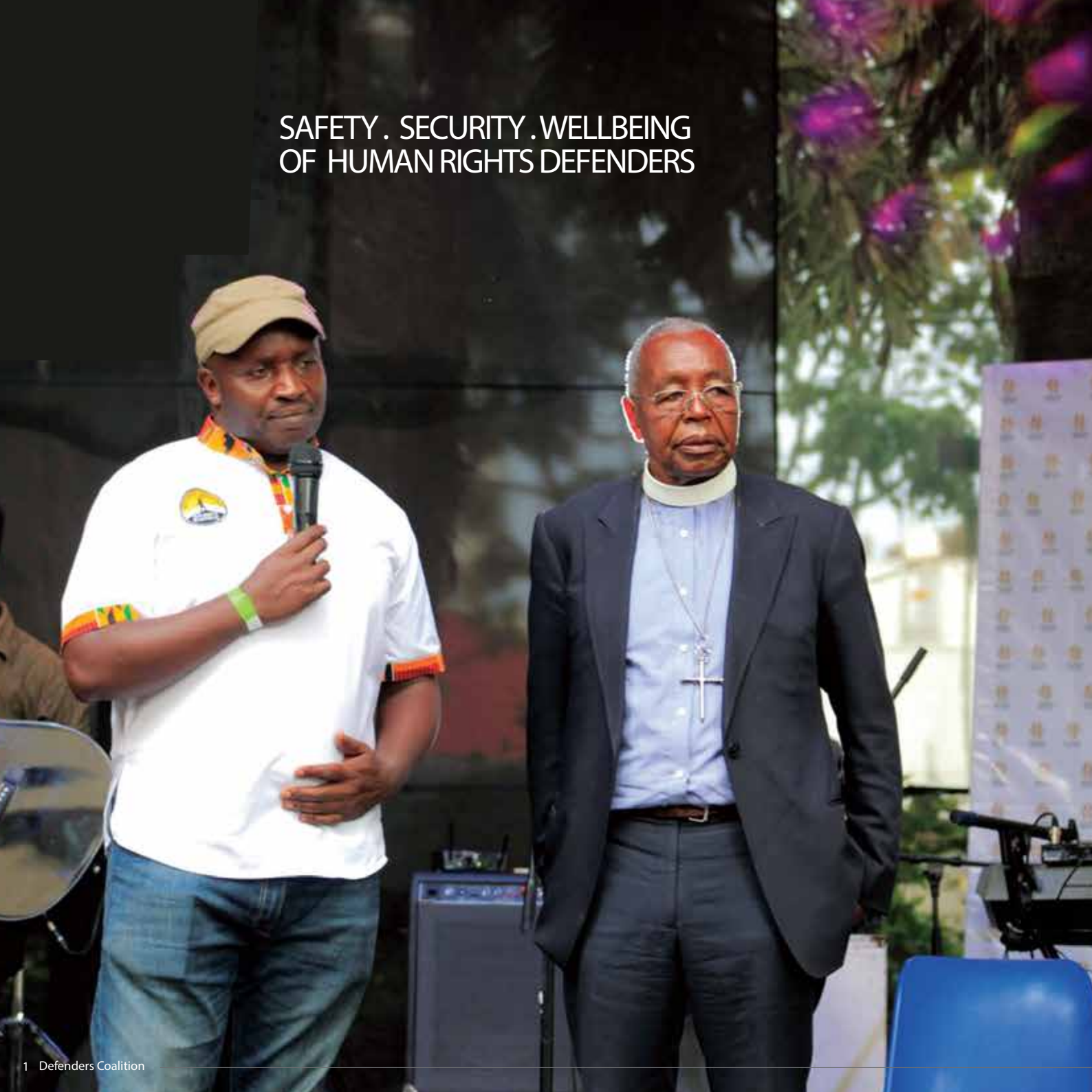


DEFENDERS
COALITION



SAFETY . SECURITY . WELLBEING
OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

SAFETY . SECURITY . WELLBEING
OF HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS





WELCOME . KARIBU

Defenders Coalition is the national coalition of human rights defenders (HRDs) established in 2007 and registered under Kenyan law as a Trust. The Coalition works primarily for the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) in Kenya.

Among others, the Defenders Coalition strengthens capacities of HRDs to work more effectively, besides advocating for favourable legal, policy and institutional environments in order to reduce their vulnerability to the risk of persecution and or harm.

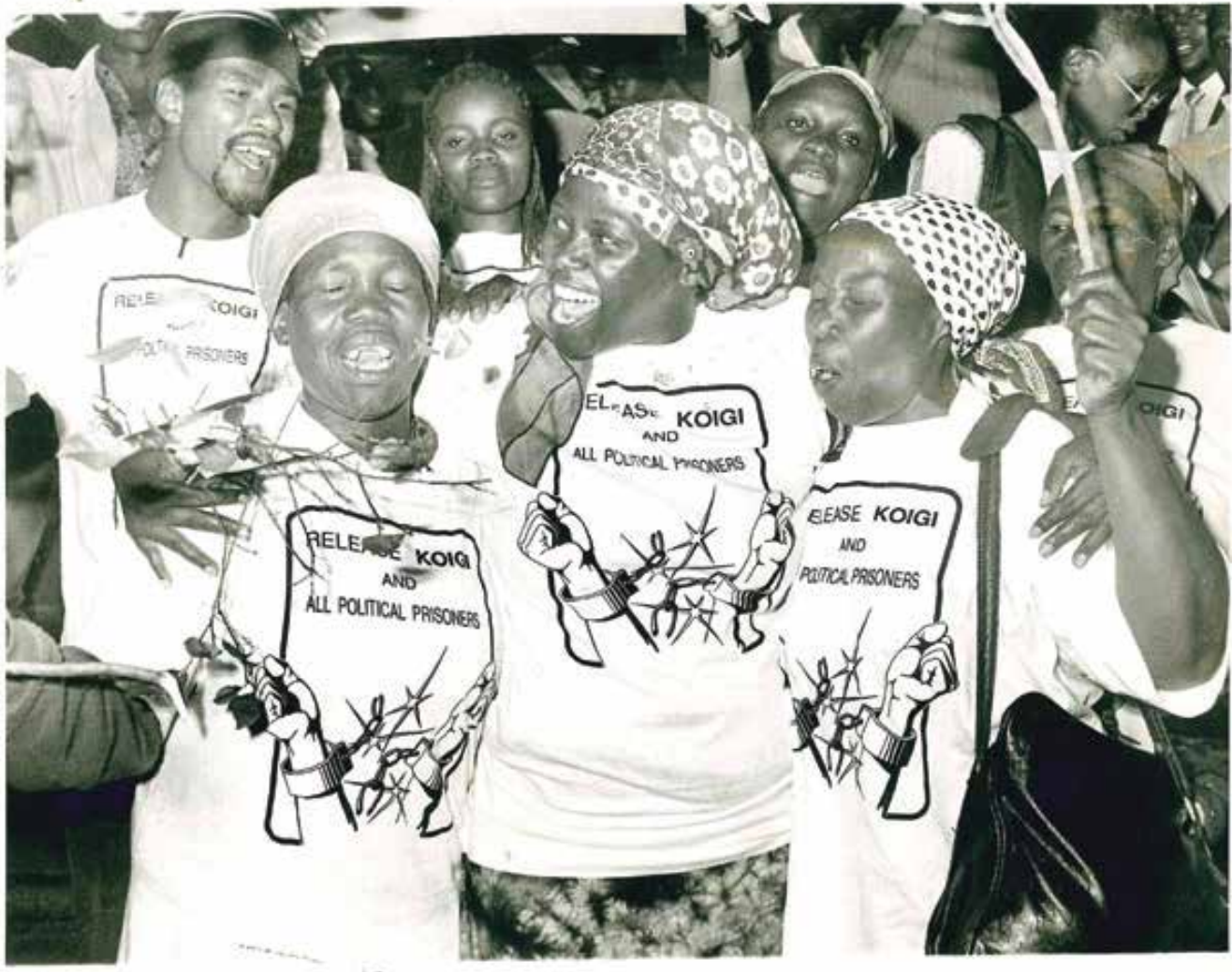
The Defenders Coalition has over the years established itself as a dependable professional institution focusing on the safety and protection of HRDs and the only national organization working primarily for the protection of HRDs in Kenya. The coalition is managed by committed, passionate and capable professionals, comprising of staff, Board of Trustees and a team of volunteers from regional and thematic adjudications.

The membership of the Coalition includes Kenyan human rights organizations and individual HRDs. The Coalition is on its part a member of various networks regionally and globally including Defend Defenders, formerly, the East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Program, and CIVICUS - World Alliance for Citizen Participation. Additionally, the Coalition has observer status with the African Commission for Human and Peoples Rights (ACHPR).

Read on to know more about the coalition and how you can be part of our noble cause

Yours Sincerely,

Kamau Ngugi
Executive Director
Defenders Coalition



MATTERS THAT MATTER

Many HRDs across the world have been subject to violations of their human rights. In Kenya, the case is equally the same. HRDs are increasingly attacked for standing for what is right. The attacks include harassment, smear campaigns, intimidation, psychosocial attacks, threats, torture, ill-treatment, negative profiling, unlawful arrests /detention as well as killings and enforced disappearances.

The perpetrators of these attacks include both State and non-state agents. Of deep concern is Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) working on issues of sexuality, gender roles, women's place in the community as well as of marginalized groups such as

indigenous populations, sex workers, Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Intersex (LGBTIs), youth and women are more commonly targeted.

WHRDs are however also at greater risk of SGBV and gender-specific risks such as assault, social discrimination, intimidation, slandering, online harassment, domestic violence and burnout.



MILESTONES



Overall Achievements of Defenders Coalition

3456

Defenders Coalition Members

14

HRDs Network

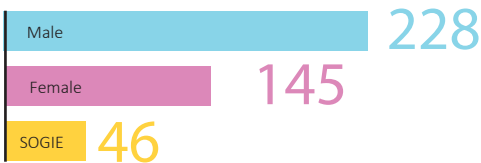
2504

HRDs Trained

02

Awards Won

HRD Beneficiaries



22

Journalists



19

From E.A. Region



26

Organisations



Defenders Coalition provides training, skill enhancement, advocacy, safety and protection of human rights defenders to reduce vulnerability to the risk of persecution

For over 10 years Defenders Coalition together with other organizations has:



SUPPORTED DISADVANTAGED KENYANS

we mobilized Kenyans and their organizations into joint actions to advance human rights



2017

Enactment Of The Africa Commission Of Human Rights Resolution 376 (Lx)



INFLUENCED LAWS & POLICY

We have influenced Kenya human rights laws & policy through advocacy and strategic public interest litigation



ALTERNATIVE COUNTRY REPORTS

We submitted reports to inform the United Nations Human Rights Council's recommendations to the Kenyan government on situation of human rights defenders.



HRD AWARDS

We have recognised, celebrated & motivated HRDs for the promotion of community and national good since 2016



PROMOTED

Promoted Duty bearer awareness & capacity of HRDs



Vision A just society founded on human rights.

Mission

To champion the safety, security and wellbeing of Human Rights Defenders.

Philosophy

The Coalition believes that every individual is entitled to the rights and personal liberties, security and social justice and that HRDs are key to advancement and realization of these rights. Our work draws from universal human rights principles and protocols. We thus dedicate resources and capabilities to protect, promote and actualize the rights, safety, security, freedoms and general wellbeing of HRDs. We do this as a basis of addressing prevailing systemic violations, oppression and or attempts at de-legitimization of the work of HRDs. We pursue social justice as an approach to enabling transformation in the spaces we seek to influence.

Principles

We have a deep passion for and commitment to human rights. Our human rights activism is underpinned by human rights principles of participation, professionalism, accountability, non-violence and does no harm. We support actions that deepen mutuality, respect for diversity, equity and equality. We commit ourselves to constitutionalism and will abide by just and progressive laws.

OUR WORK

It is apparent that the assault on HRDs has reached a crisis point. Generally, HRDs are often more susceptible to human rights violations because of the nature of their work; limited skills and knowledge; and socio-economic exclusions. These are exacerbated by individual and collective capacity constraints as well as policy, legal, institutional and cultural barriers.

Elimination of intimidation, violence and delegitimization of the work of HRDs is a prerequisite to their safety, wellbeing, and effectiveness.

Putting an end to such violations require dismantling of the structural norms, perceptions, structures and systems that cause, contribute to or sustain such violations.

This also requires that duty-bearers fulfil their obligations to protect, respect and promote the rights of HRDs, including through public recognition of the work of HRDs, implementing effective protection mechanisms for HRDs at risk, or punishing those responsible for attacking them. HRDs must in this sense be regarded as entitled to basic human rights.

We understand that barriers to the safety and wellbeing of HRDs are often in the areas of formal laws, institutions, norms/ perceptions and individual capacities. A systematic approach that amongst others pushes for public recognition of the legitimacy of HRDs; promotes an enabling environment where HRDs are protected and can work without fear of reprisal or punishment; equipping HRDs with requisite skills, knowledge, tools and opportunities; and supports networking for HRDs is needed.



The Coalition will focus on the following broad implementation strategies to address and respond to this environment:

- 1 Supportive Policy, Legal and Institutional Frameworks
In this strategic priority area, the Coalition will position itself as a thought leader and collaborative partner towards (re)formulation and/or enforcement of appropriate policies, laws, institutions and cultural norms that touch on the safety, security and wellbeing of HRDs.



2 HRD Protection and Safety

The main aim of this pillar will be to facilitate timely and appropriate responses to all forms of threats or insecurities to HRDs.

3 Socio-economic Wellbeing of HRDs;

This strategic priority area aims to facilitate HRDs to build their socio-economic resilience and attain an improved quality of life. Such support will also seek to ensure that HRDs are self-sufficient, easily access the basic necessities of life and live in dignity.

4 Institutional Excellence

Internally, the Coalition will seek to consolidate its position as a dynamic, effective and sustainable organization. We will mainly focus on further strengthening/ diversifying our resource base, human resource and leadership capabilities, as well as our internal systems, policies and structures.

The Defenders Coalition recognizes that support to HRDs is central to the realization of universal respect for human rights and implementation of international human rights protocols that contribute to a safe and just world.

We appreciate that HRDs are often the target of human rights violations and so themselves need protection. We see the protection of, and or support to HRDs and their work as a right in itself, especially in a context where serious human rights violations continue to be meted upon them.

We believe that capacity development; building movements/strategic partnerships; and ensuring an enabling policy, legal, institutional and cultural environment have the greatest impact on safety, security and wellbeing of HRDs.

To realise this, we, therefore, commit to contribute to;

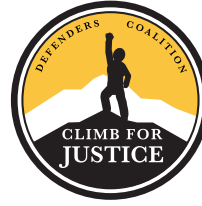
- 1 Enabling HRDs to respond to, confront, or avert insecurity in a timely and appropriate manner
- 2 Support development and use of responsive and appropriate protection mechanisms/ models
- 3 Generating, packaging and sharing research and evidence to influence policy and practice
- 4 Strengthening capacity of HRDs (voice, agency, skills, knowledge, networking etc.)
- 5 Strengthening the Coalition's own capacities

This is summarised in the following diagrammatic representation of the Coalition's theory of change:



HOW TO ENGAGE





Climb for Justice Campaign was launched on 13th August 2019 at the Serena Hotel, Nairobi. The campaign, which is a brainchild of Defenders Coalition, aims to diversify resource pooling and mobilization to inject sustainability into the now redundant and unsustainable human rights defence work models.

The current models for protecting human rights in Kenya, as well as on the global stage are faced with unprecedented challenges such as inadequate finances, socio-political uncertainties and general repulsion from the public due to malicious narratives and negative labelling of the actors involved.

The rationale behind the campaign was to incorporate Kenyans and friends of Kenya into the work of defending human rights as well as highlight the everyday struggles of human rights defenders (HRDs): Kenyans were urged to contribute towards raising Kshs. 50 million for setting up research, wellness, creativity and training centre for HRDs in Kenya.

#ClimbForJustice is rooted in Defenders Coalition's ongoing work on consolidation and expanding to benefit more people. We are committed to strengthening our support for the women and men at every village in this country who put their lives on the line to protect the Constitution and human rights at a challenging time.

To find the very voice of humanity itself we must continue to organize and mobilise in defence of humanity, in defence of our future and to see to the creation of a human rights state.

Join our sustainability efforts by making a donation towards our Climb for Justice. See back page for more details.

HRDs VOICES



"The real work of defending human right begins when the cameras go off. The real work of defending human rights, happens daily, and is a key part of our existence. The work the Coalition does might not be noticed every day; it may not make it to the news daily, yet, it's the work that binds people together working on movement-building across the region. This work stitches the thread of humanity. Had it not been for the Defenders Coalition, I wouldn't be standing here..."

-John Allan Namu



"Defenders Coalition has held the hand of women human rights defenders to the point that the suffering inflicted by prevailing patriarchal system is almost forgotten. Through this platform, a WHRD, a pastoralist woman from a volatile Tana River County can stand and challenge injustices knowing she has backing. Women at the grassroots level can now speak because they know that there is an ally."

-Sadia Hussein



National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders
-Kenya as first coalition in the sub-region had stood up protecting one and many Kenyan HRDs at risk over the past 10 years. We are happy to continue to support and give solidarity with the Kenyan HRDs Community in years to come

- Hassan Shire



"Through robust partnership with Defenders Coalition, we have been able to develop programs and partnerships that deliberately provide for integration LGBTIQ work within their work thus amplifying the voices of minorities. It is only with allies like Defenders Coalition that we shall overcome oppressive laws like the current criminalization of same sex relations."

-Gigi Louisa

OUR PARTNERS



You too can become our partner by making a donation. See overleaf

"For it is in giving that we receive."
— Francis of Assisi



DEFENDERS
COALITION

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SUPPORT US

Mpesa payment:
Paybill number 810896 Account: Your name
Direct Transfer - Bank Details:
NIC Bank Account: 1001188727
Cheque payable to:
The National Coalition of Human Rights
Defenders-Kenya

www.defenderscoalition.org

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